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~~1 Mr. Robinson~~  
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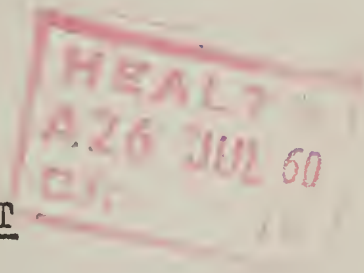
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS

ANNUAL REPORT

on the Health of

SAWBRIDGECORTH URBAN DISTRICT

For the Year 1959



Report presented by:-

The Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector,

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

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EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS  
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1959  
SAWBRIDGECORTH URBAN DISTRICT

PREFACE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the Health of the Urban District of Sawbridgeworth for the year ending 31st December 1959. The format of this report differs slightly from that of last year in that two items relating to Deaths of Infants under one week of age have been added to the Section on Vital Statistics, while particulars relating to the Factories Acts 1937 to 1959 are appended in a different manner. These changes have been made in accordance with instructions contained in Ministry of Health Circular No.1/60 dated 8th January 1960.

I first wish to thank the Members of the Council for the encouragement and support I have received from them during the past year and for the unflagging interest they have shown in the health of the Community.

I am also most grateful to my Colleagues and especially Mr. Ford, the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector for the constant help and co-operation they have afforded me.

During 1959 the health of the Urban District has been excellent. The total population figures show a small but steady rise over the years. In 1949 these figures were 3,692 while in 1959 they were 4,550, this latter figure being an increase of 160 over that of 1958.

The number of live births has continued to rise, there have been no still-births, neither have there been any maternal deaths. The number of deaths at all ages has risen from 30 in 1958 to 46 in 1959, but of these 20 occurred in people over the age of 70. 16, or 34.8%, of the deaths were due to Hypertension or other diseases of the circulatory system.

No cases of Poliomyelitis were reported during the year and it is gratifying to note that the advent of more vaccine has given an increasing impetus to the vaccination campaign carried out both by the local doctors and the County Medical Staff.



The 26 cases of Measles which occurred were a small number in comparison to the large numbers seen in the biennial epidemic which affected England and Wales. Out of 5 cases notified as Dysentery, 4 were unconfirmed bacteriologically.

As has happened in previous years, the standard of hygiene in food premises has been good and neither admonitions nor prosecutions were necessary. No cases of Food Poisoning were reported during the year.

No action was required under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948. All persons, however, who might conceivably enter the category for which this Section was designed are, where possible, kept in mind and close liaison is maintained with the local Doctors, the Health Visitors, the District Nurses and the Old Peoples' Welfare Association.

The modern problem of radiation hazards artificially produced, although a negligible one in Sawbridgeworth, is not a matter which can be neglected. A number of reports on this subject were presented to the Council during the year. In addition, I attended a week's course in London organised by the Services Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health.

New houses to the number of 52 were built during the year by private enterprise, while the Council has already taken steps to extend its own building programme during the forthcoming year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant.

Gordon M. Frizelle.





## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Sawbridgeworth, described as Sabrixteworde in the Domesday Survey of 1086, lies in the extreme East of Hertfordshire where the River Stort forms the natural boundary between Hertfordshire and Essex. Two small fingers of the Urban District, however, project across the River at Spellbrook and at Great Hyde Hall, making incursions into what is Essex geographically.

Sawbridgeworth is a pleasant little Country Town which lies astride the main London-Newmarket Road (A.11) some 25 miles from London. It is well served by a number of bus routes and is on the Liverpool Street to Cambridge main railway line, soon due for electrification as far as Bishops Stortford.

The Urban District lies partly in the Valley of the Stort, but rises fairly steeply towards the West to a height of approximately 250 ft. where it merges into undulating countryside.

The Town, which is largely residential, but has a few light industries, forms a pleasing combination of the old and the new. While many of the buildings in the Town itself proclaim their medieval origin, numerous pleasing modern residences are to be seen in the outskirts.

The total area comprises 2,678 acres and the population has risen from 4,390 in 1958 to 4,550 in 1959.

The Town is served by an excellent piped water supply, gas, electricity and main drainage. It is in an area of little rainfall and because of its charm and amenities, is increasingly sought after as a residential area.





PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Gordon M. Frizelle, T.D., M.D., D.P.H.,

Central Office: Council Offices,  
High Street,  
HODDESDON, Herts.

(Office Telephone: Hoddesdon 3061. Private: Hertford 2150)

Deputy (Part Time) Medical Officer of Health

Peter de Bec TURTLE, V.R.D., M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Haileybury and Imperial Service College,  
Hertford Heath.

Telephone: Hoddesdon 2040.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (and Surveyor)

C.A. Ford. Certificate of the R.S.I., and S.I.E.J. Board,  
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods,  
Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
The Forebury,  
Sawbridgeworth, Herts. (Telephone: Sawbridgeworth 2161)

Clerical duties to the Public Health Department were carried out by  
Mr. R.A. Berry, Assistant Surveyor, with typing assistance from  
Mrs. D. Higgins and Miss J. Hanratty in the Clerk's Department.

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COMMITTEE CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health matters are dealt with by the Highways, Public Health, Allotments and Lighting Committee, comprised of all the Members of the Council.

The Chairman of the Committee for the session 1959/1960 was  
Councillor W.B. Sykes, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.

S E C T I O N   A.

GENERAL STATISTICS 1959

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1958 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Sawbridgeworth: 4,550    (4,390)

Natural increase or decrease	....	+	20
Migration in or out	....	+	<u>140</u>
Total increase or decrease	....	+	<u>160</u>

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres                      ....                      2,678

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Book: 1,505    (1,450)

Number of houses per acre	....	0.56
Number of Persons per acre	....	1.7
Number of Persons per house	....	3.0

Rateable Value of District                      ....                      £51,720

Sum represented by a Penny Rate                      ....                      £205

# VITAL STATISTICS

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1958 are shown in brackets)

## LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	36 (23)	29 (29)	65 (52)
Illegitimate	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Total Live Births	37 (24)	29 (29)	66 (53)
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population		14.50	(12.06)
Area Comparability Factor for Births		0.97	(1.00)
Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population		14.07	(12.06)
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births		1.88	(1.51)

## STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total Still Births	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Still Births rate per 1,000 total live and still-births		0	(0)

## TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	36 (23)	29 (29)	65 (52)
Illegitimate	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Total Live and Still Births	37 (24)	29 (29)	66 (53)

## COMPARISON RATES

	<u>Sawbridgeworth U.D.</u>	<u>Hertford County</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Live Birth Rate	14.50		
Area Comparability Factor	0.97		
Standardised Birth Rate	14.07		16.5
Still Births Rate	0		20.7

## VITAL STATISTICS (Continued)

### INFANT DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Infants under one week, total	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Legitimate	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Infants under four weeks, total	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Legitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Infants under one year, total	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Legitimate	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

### INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births.      Total	45.45	( 37.73)
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	45.45	(37.88)
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0.0	(0)
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under four weeks per 1,000 total live births	30.30	(18.86)
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under one week per 1,000 total live births	15.15	(0)
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths of infants under one week combined - per 1,000 total live and still births	15.15	(0)



# VITAL STATISTICS (continued)

## MATERNAL DEATHS

Maternal Deaths, including abortion	0.0	(0)
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	0.0	(0)

## DEATHS (total)

Deaths of all ages	Males	24.0	(15)
	Females	22.0	(15)
	Total	46.0	(30)
Death Rate per 1,000 population		10.11	(6.83)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths		1.04	(0.97)
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population		10.51	(6.60)

## COMPARISON RATES

	<u>Sawbridgeworth U. D. C.</u>	<u>Hertford County</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Infant Mortality Rate	45.45		
Legitimate	45.45		
Illegitimate	0.0		
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	30.30		15.8
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate	15.15		
Perinatal Mortality Rate	15.15		
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.0		0.38
Death Rate	10.11		
Area Comparability Factor	1.04		
Standardised Death Rate	10.51		11.6

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year.

Measles	26	(January, April, May, June, July)
Pneumonia	3	(January, July, October)
Scarlet Fever	4	(January, February, May, June)
Erysipelas	2	(March, December)
Gastro-Enteritis	1	(July)
Dysentery	5	(August (4), October) (Four in August not confirmed)
Whooping Cough	6	(September, October)
Infective Hepatitis	1	(December)

T.B.

Commencement of Year -

Males	:	Pulmonary 9.	Non-Pulmonary - Nil.
Females	:	Pulmonary 14.	Non-Pulmonary - 1.

Three New Cases.

Two removed from Register.

Remaining on Register -

Males	:	Pulmonary 9.	Non-Pulmonary - Nil.
Females	:	Pulmonary 13.	Non-Pulmonary - 3.



CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1959

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>M.</u> <u>24</u>	<u>F.</u> <u>22</u>
	ALL CAUSES ... ..		
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ...	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other .. ...	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease .. ...	0	0
4	Diphtheria ... ..	0	0
5	Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections ... ..	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis .. ...	0	0
8	Measles ... ..	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic disease ..	0	0
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ... ..	1	1
11	" " lung, bronchus ... ..	2	0
12	" " breast ... ..	0	2
13	" " uterus ... ..	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	2
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia ... ..	1	0
16	Diabetes ... ..	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	0	2
18	Coronary disease, angina ... ..	4	2
19	Hypertension with heart disease .. ...	0	0
20	Other heart disease .. ...	4	5
21	Other circulatory disease .. ...	0	0
22	Influenza ... ..	1	0
23	Pneumonia ... ..	0	0
24	Bronchitis ... ..	1	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	0	0
26	Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	0	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ...	0	0
31	Congenital malformations .. ...	0	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases .	3	3
33	Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	0	1
34	All other accidents ... ..	1	0
35	Suicide ... ..	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war ... ..	0	0
(a)	Still Births .. ...	0	0
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	1	0
(c)	" " " four weeks to one year of age ...	0	1

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR SAWBRIDGEWORTH

#### LABORATORY SERVICE

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

In emergency, certain (Medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Herts and Essex General Hospital, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

#### COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act 1946, are available in the District. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

##### Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres.

Number of Nurses : 3      Welfare Centre : 1.

##### Vaccinations, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis Immunisations.

Medical Officers at the Welfare Centre will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

##### Home and Domestic Help

Applications for this Service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 25a Portland Road, Bishop's Stortford (Telephone: Bishop's Stortford 332).

A charge may be made for this Service, in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

##### Care and After-Care

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant, should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A Medical Loan Depot has been established at Bishop's Stortford.

A charge may be made for both the above Services.

### Ambulance Service

There is an Ambulance Station at Bishop's Stortford (Telephone: Bishop's Stortford 1101. Except in emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a medical practitioner.

### Day Nurseries.

There is no Day Nursery at Sawbridgeworth.

### Mental Health

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. J.H. Webster, Collett Road, Ware, Herts. (Telephone: Ware 541)

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been established in Hertford.

### HOSPITAL SERVICES

Sawbridgeworth is served chiefly by the Herts and Essex General Hospital (formerly Haymeads) and by the Bishop's Stortford and District Hospital.

These hospitals are managed by the Hertford Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

### GENERAL PRACTITIONER MEDICAL SERVICES.

Two General Practitioners reside and practise in Sawbridgeworth: but the Town is also served by Practitioners in the Harlow (Essex) and Bishop's Stortford localities.

### DENTAL SERVICE

Dental Practitioners are available in adjoining towns.

### OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION

This body is very active in Sawbridgeworth and in addition to its other functions, has for a number of years been responsible for a much needed Chiropody Service.

### OTHER SERVICES

There is a Mortuary owned and managed by the Urban District Council. Blood Transfusion Donor Sessions are held at the Memorial Hall.



## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLY

The piped supply is provided by the Herts and Essex Water Company to 1,550 premises, six of which share three standpipes.

105 premises in the District, including new houses, were connected to the mains during the year, leaving four dwellings in Spellbrook which are supplied from privately-owned wells.

#### QUALITY

##### Bacteriological

Reports were received upon 49 samples of the town's water supply, and show that B.Coli. were absent from 100 ml. in each case.

##### Chemical

One sample was submitted for analysis. The result showed slight opalescence and deposit due to the presence of an appreciable and therefore objectional trace of iron. (Average 0.44 parts per million.) The water was neutral in reaction, very hard in character though not excessively so, and it contained no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It was of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

Apart from the objection to the slight lack of clarity and trace of iron, the results were indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

#### DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the District is served by main drainage. Sewage is disposed of at two sewage works. The effluent at the principal works is discharged into the River Stort after purification and in the case of the other (smaller) works, it is disposed of by septic tank treatment followed by land irrigation.

Two out of five samples of effluent taken from the Central Sewage Works for analysis were satisfactory upon analysis. Two samples were slightly high in suspended matter, and the other had a high B.O.D. content.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household refuse is collected fortnightly and is disposed of by controlled tipping at Redricks Lane Tip. Special arrangements are made in connection with trade refuse.

### PARTICULARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK

during the year 1959

#### Summary of Visits

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	207
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	131
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	97
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	58
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	<u>236</u>
Total	..	...			<u>729</u>

Number of Informal Notices served	...	9
" " Statutory Notices served	...	Nil

### HOUSING ACTS 1936-1959

#### NEW HOUSING

52 private dwellings were completed during the year and the Council accepted tenders for the erection of 22 dwellings on the Bullfields Housing Estate.

#### HOUSING ACT 1957

Official representations were made to the Council by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of six cottages which were unfit for human habitation.

The Council accepted a proposal from the owner of a cottage which was included in the proposed Slum Clearance Programme. The owner undertook to carry out repairs and improvements to the dwelling in order to make the property up to a standard required for human habitation. A standard grant was given by the Council in respect of the works. The work was in progress at the end of the year and subject to the repairs and improvements being completed to the satisfaction of the Council, the property will be removed from the Slum Clearance Programme.

#### HOUSING AND HOUSE PURCHASE ACT 1959

Five applications were received from applicants for standard grants in respect of five properties, three of which were granted. Two were not granted as not satisfying the requirements of the Act.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

### Milk

Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	2
Number of Dairies	...	...	...	1

### Supplementary Licences to use Special Designations

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	2

The Dairy was inspected on twelve occasions during the year. Purveyors' delivery vehicles also receive frequent inspection.

### Ice Cream

No Ice Cream is manufactured in the district. There are 12 registered premises who sell wrapped ice cream, and regular inspections are carried out.

### Unsound Food

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and were surrendered:-

<u>Category</u>	<u>No. of Tins or Containers</u>	<u>Weight in lb.</u>
Meat (Tinned)	9	56
Peaches	2	12
Total Weight .....		68
(1958 Total : 432 lbs.)		

### Food Premises

Shops and other premises engaged in the sale and preparation of foodstuffs number 38. This number is made up as follows:-

Butchers	4
Grocers and Provision Merchants	10
Bakehouses	2
Fish Shops	1
Cafes, Public Houses &c.	7
Institutional Kitchens, Schools and Industrial Canteens	9
Greengrocers	5



65 visits were made to these food premises during the year.

Various improvements were carried out at food premises, including new washing facilities, additional sanitary accommodation, improved storage arrangements and structural improvements.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

No charge is made in respect of private dwellings.

Routine Sewer treatments were carried out twice during the year, and the Council Tip and Sewage Works were similarly treated.

Rodent Control - Summary of work done

Total number of premises inspected	165
Number of premises infested	26
Number of premises treated by the Council	26
Total number of visits and re-visits	173



PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	22	38	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises .....	4	20	-	-
Total .....	26	58	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	

Want of cleanliness (S.1)

Overcrowding (S.2)

Unreasonable temperature  
(S.3)

Inadequate ventilation  
(S.4)

N I L



2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found, etc..... continued.

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.  (6)
	Found  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					

N I L

PART VIII OF THE ACT - Outwork  
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises. (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Textile weaving	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	-	-	-	-	-

